



RTCA in Georgia

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Georgia offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.



Cyclists at the Georgia Trail Summit

Recent Success Stories

Georgia Trail Summit – The National Park Service assisted in organizing and co-sponsoring the second annual Georgia Trails Summit. Over 115 people met in Athens, Georgia to discuss trails, healthy recreation and alternative transportation. The summit was organized by NPS along with a group of volunteers that included several environmental and recreational oriented groups. The topics for discussion included bicycles on trails, long-distance trails, establishing new land and water trails. Eleven various workshops took attendees to rivers and existing trails in and around Athens for on-site exploration and discussions. The keynote speaker, Dr. Richard Jackson, a physician and Department Chairman at UCLA's School of Public Health in Los Angeles and former employee of the US Center of Disease Control spoke to the attendees on the culture of health related to trails and trails as a transportation solution.

Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail –The National Park Service coordinated the Southeast Saltwater Paddling Trail project with a partner from each state along the coastal trail. The project identified a “main corridor” for a waterway along the coasts of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana. The paddling trail project identifies public boat access and campgrounds that connect within each state and between the states to provide for day or multiday paddling and camping trips. A database and website (www.secoastpaddlingtrail.com) was launched to combine resources along the trail into one centralized location.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Georgia contact:

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